

## PRESS RELEASE

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### JEAN GREMILLON AND OTHER NEGLECTED MASTERS OF THE FRENCH SCREEN

Jean Grémillon, Jean Eustache, Claude Chabrol, Maurice Pialat, Michel Deville, and Marcel Hanoun are six important French film directors whose works are not well known to the American public. A series of nine significant films by these men, "Jean Grémillon and Other Neglected Masters of the French Screen," takes place at The Cleveland Museum of Art from September 2-30 on Wednesdays at 8 pm and Sundays at 2:15 pm. Admission is free.

Four of the nine films are directed by Jean Grémillon (1901-1959), arguably the most important director represented and considered by the French one of their greatest filmmakers. Among his films in the series are: "Lumière d'Eté (1943) and "Le Ciel est à Vous" (1944), two undisputed masterpieces from the Nazi occupation; "Pattes Blanches" (1949), a drama co-written by playwright Jean Anouilh; and "La Maison aux Images" (1955), one of the best of the short documentaries made at the end of his career.

Another highlight of the Museum series is the Cleveland premiere of a seven-part, nearly seven-hour film, "The Wooden House," made for French television by Maurice Pialat, whose new film ("Under the Sun of Satan") won the grand prize at the 1987 Cannes Film Festival. "The Wooden House" (1969), about the daily life of a provincial French family during World War I, will be shown on three successive Sundays.

## 2-masters of the french screen

Claude Chabrol is the best known of the directors represented, famous for his thrillers from the 1960s and early 1970s, but recently denied attention. His picturesque period piece "The Horse of Pride" (1980) concerns the lives of peasants in early 20th-century Brittany. It therefore also complements the concurrent Museum exhibition "Gauguin & His Circle in Brittany: The Prints of the Pont-Aven School."

Of the other directors in the series, Jean Eustache was an immensely talented misfit who worked only intermittently until his suicide in 1981, whose films are going out of American release this year; Michel Deville is one of the wittiest and most original of contemporary French filmmakers but most American critics regard his graceful, literate and sophisticated films as "fluff;" and Marcel Hanoun is a celebrated avant-garde filmmaker whose hour-long first film "Une Simple Histoire" (1957) is a remarkable formal achievement.

All films are in French with English subtitles, with the exception of "La Maison aux Images," which has English narration. Specific titles, dates, and brief descriptions follow:

### JEAN GRÉMILLON AND OTHER NEGLECTED MASTERS OF THE FRENCH SCREEN

Sundays at 2:15 pm/Wednesdays at 8 pm, in the Lecture Hall, The Cleveland Museum of Art

Wed/Sept. 2 - *Lumière d'Été*, 1943. Directed by Jean Grémillon. With Madeleine Renaud and Pierre Brasseur. B&W. English subtitles. 90 min. Sardonic love roundelay, set in and around a country inn, about a wealthy playboy in love with a woman who loves a poor engineer.

### 3-masters of the french screen

- Sun/Sept. 6 - A double feature: *The Horse of Pride*, 1980. Directed by Claude Chabrol. Color. English subtitles. 118 min. Touching, lyrical tale of peasants in early 20th-century Brittany. *Bad Company*, 1964-66. Directed by Jean Eustache. With Jean-Pierre Leaud. B&W. English subtitles. 83 min. Two offbeat short films about aimless French youth: "Robinson's Place" and "Santa Claus Has Blue Eyes."
- Wed/Sept. 9 - *Le Ciel est à Vous*, 1944. Directed by Jean Grémillon. With Madeleine Renaud and Charles Vanel. B&W. English subtitles. 100 min. Stirring story of a husband and wife whose shared passion for flying takes them to new heights.
- Sun/Sept. 13 - *The Wooden House (Parts 1-3)*, 1969. Directed by Maurice Pialat. Color. English subtitles. 168 min. The first portion of an acclaimed, seven-episode drama, originally made for French television, about the daily life of a provincial French family during World War I. Film continues on the next two Sundays. Cleveland premiere.
- Wed/Sept. 16 - *The Woman in Blue*, 1972. Directed by Michel Deville. With Michel Piccoli, Lea Massari, and Simone Simon. Color. English subtitles. 90 min. Provocative story of a middle-aged man who drops all in pursuit of an ideal woman he spots one day. Cleveland premiere.
- Sun/Sept. 20 - *The Wooden House (Parts 4 & 5)*, 1969. Directed by Maurice Pialat. Color. English subtitles. 112 min. Continuation of the World War I saga begun on 9/13 and concluding on 9/27. Cleveland premiere.
- Wed/Sept. 23 - *Pattes Blanches*, 1949. Directed by Jean Grémillon. With Suzy Delair and Fernand Ledoux. B&W. English subtitles. 92 min. A hunchbacked servant girl loves a despicable aristocrat in this convoluted tale of sexual jealousy, intrigue, and revolving romantic attachments in a small French village. Co-written by Jean Anouilh.
- Sun/Sept. 27 - *The Wooden House (Parts 6 & 7)*, 1969. Directed by Maurice Pialat. Color. English subtitles. 112 min. Conclusion of the World War I saga shown over the last two Sundays. Cleveland premiere.
- Wed/Sept. 30 - A double feature: *La Maison aux Images*, 1955. Directed by Jean Grémillon. Color. English narration. 17 min. Superb documentary about artists Dunoyer de Segonzac, Joan Miro, and André Masson at work in Montmartre. *Une Simple Histoire*, 1957. Directed by Marcel Hanoun. B&W. English subtitles. 60 min. A woman with a small child searches for work in Paris in this touching, original, inventively structured tale.